UPLAND HABITATS

Upland habitats include both preserve areas for the California Least Tern and native vegetation areas available for public use. Several sites are identified in the NRMP as Least Tern preserves. These sites, with the exceptions noted below, are to remain. Non-preserve upland areas are viewed as recreational landscapes benefitting those who desire open space for strolling, hiking, bicycling, jogging or simply to enjoy wide views of the Bay.

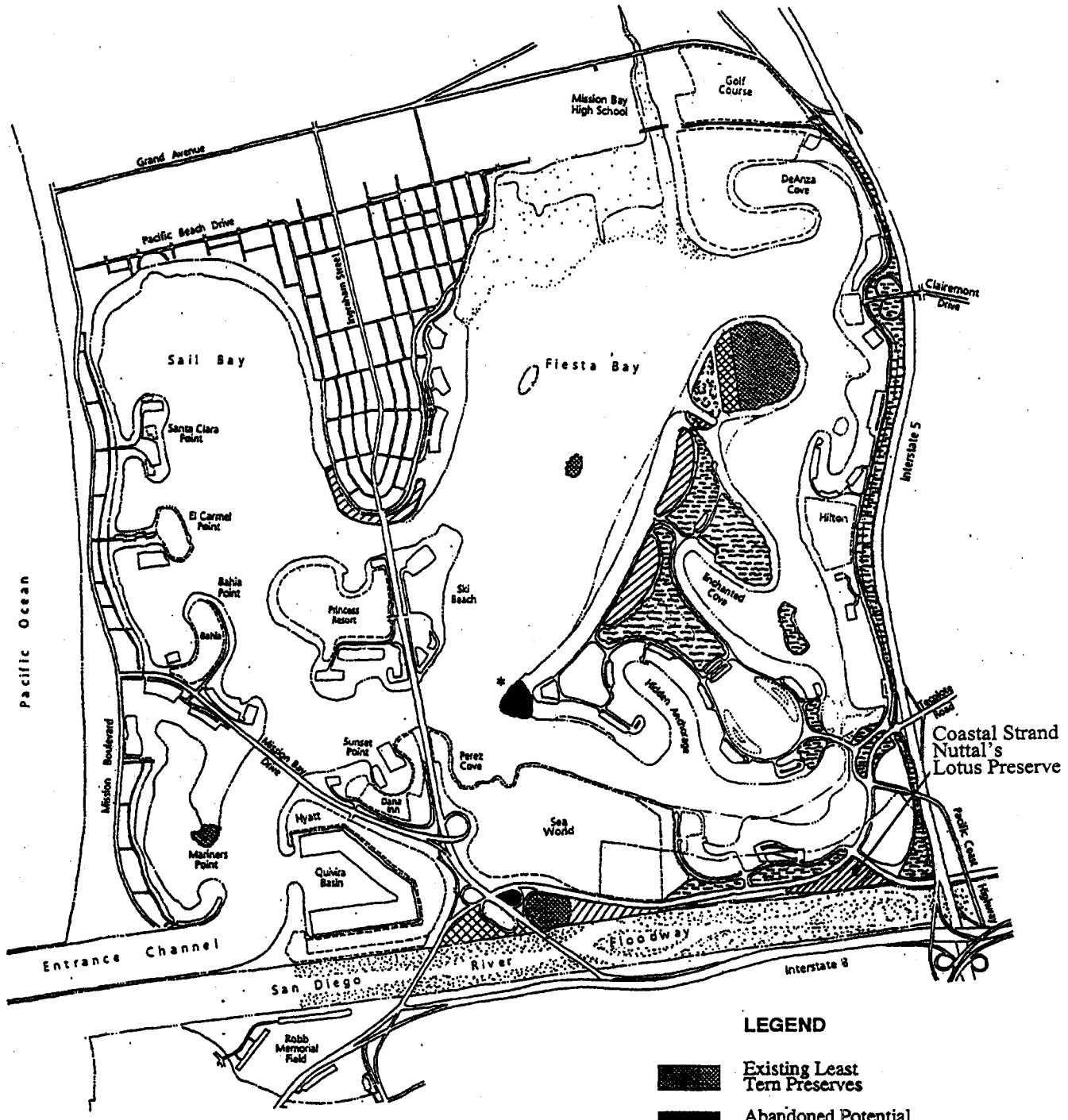
Recommendations

In pursuit of the "Parks Within a Park" concept, most of the upland habitat areas are proposed in the northeast quadrant of the Park, particularly within Fiesta Island.

72. Preserves: The NRMP identifies four of the Least Tern preserves to remain: on the north shore of the San Diego River Channel near Sea World Drive, by the Ingraham Street "cloverleaf"; the tip of Mariner's Point; FAA Island in Fiesta Bay; and the northern peninsula (north end) of Fiesta Island.

This Plan proposes that Stony Point in Fiesta Island and the Cloverleaf site at the intersection of Sea World Drive and Ingraham Street be abandoned and replaced at other locations. Stony Point, which was a historic breeding area, is proposed to be abandoned to permit the full utilization of the Island's southern peninsula for regional recreation purposes. NRMP recommended that the Cloverleaf site be released from a nesting site and be returned for park use, because it is surrounded by high traffic roads, is less than an acre in size, and is difficult to maintain and monitor. Proposed replacement sites include North Fiesta Island and area along the levee of the San Diego River floodway, west of Ingraham Street. The abandonment of Stony Point should be effected when Least Terns are confirmed to be breeding in a suitable replacement site.

73. Coastal Landscape Enhancement: As described in more detail in the Land Use Section of this Plan, substantial new upland areas are proposed for recreation purposes. These areas would be vegetated primarily by beach strand and coastal sage scrub communities. In addition to their recreational value, these plant communities provide cover and forage for several wildlife species, adding to the overall biological vitality of the Park.



* The Stony Point site was a proposed reinstatement of a historical Least Tern breeding area.

Upland Habitats

figure 24